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## ROAD BUILDING

LAND VALUES ARE INCREASED

English Country Residents Enjoy Good Roads and Are Ever Within Reach of Good Markets.

In England the highest ambition of a majority of well-to-do men is to have a "place" in the country. They don't hanker after city living the year around; indeed, they don't hanker after it at all, except as it may be forced upon them in order that they may live near their business. But the minute their business reaches such a point as to afford them some leisure, or the minute they acquire sufficient means to retire, they seek a home in the country. England has good roads, though in very early times none were worse, and these country residents are never beyond the reach of good markets and of the supplies which good markets offer. A country house ten miles from a market town, but connected with it by a good road—a road good at all seasons and in all weathers—isn't really so difficult of access as some country



An English Country Road.

houses within a mile of some of our city limits.

Has it ever occurred to landholders in some of our own towns that good roads to their lands would not only bring those lands nearer the markets they raise produce for, but would also bring those lands nearer the city where business men do business, make them more available for residence and increase their value? No man wants to travel two or more miles every day to and from the city where his business is located over such "roads" as we have found existing in various parts of the country. No wonder the "state road" system has become so popular. But many men would be glad to drive their buggy or auto five or even more miles every day if the roads offered them were such that the drive was a daily pleasure and did not put them at an unreasonable distance from their offices in point of time.

### OPERATION OF A ROAD DRAG

Some Simple Lessons Given by Man Who Learned by Years of Experience—Helper Is Needed.

Here are some simple lessons, worth considering, which I have learned by years of experience with the road drag, writes John K. Goodman in Progressive Farmer.

1. Make your drag reversible (i. e., to move dirt right or left) by altering the hitch. Have the hind section about five-sixths the length of the front one; and face both front and rear sections entire length with iron or steel.

2. For best results under varying conditions of road surface as to dry, damp, hard or soft, I find it pays to have a man along at the end of a rope attached to the rear end of drag to properly steer the machine, and counteract its tendency to slide around hard bumps which need trimming off and smoothing. It is not so easy a matter as talking about it, for one man (the driver) to rightly direct the course and work of the drag by stepping from point to point, as common directions go; in fact, oftentimes impossible. The driver's weight is not always needed on the drag, but can be there in an instant when required.

**Poor Highways.**  
Poor highways lessen the profit of labor, increase the cost of living, burden the enterprise of the people, dull the morality of our citizenship and hold down the educational advancement of the country.

**Add to Selling Price.**  
Good roads in your vicinity add to the selling price of the products of your farm.

**Marks of Plymouth Rocks.**  
Originally, the Barred Rock, oldest of the Plymouth Rocks by many years, had five toes, but now these never appear. Originally, in the old rocks one would appear now and then showing feathers on the legs of the hen best pure-bred. Should this happen today, one would discard it immediately as far from pure-bred.

## DAIRY



### SELLING HEIFERS FOR BEEF

System of Depletion of Breeding Stock Is Going on Continuously—Money for Feeder.

Notwithstanding the general scarcity of cattle in the country, which is conceded by every cattleman of intelligence, there continues to appear in all the stockyards daily journals reports of carloads of extra fine yearling heifers that brought the top price for the day, etc., says Twentieth Century Farmer. Of course, these reports are true. It is an absolute fact that carloads of the very best heifer calves have been bought, fattened for the baby beef market and shipped back and sold to the packers for slaughter.

This system of depletion of the breeding stock of the country is going on continuously in the face of what might be termed a cattle famine. When will it stop? Not until these



Good Dairy Foundation.

heifer calves will bring more for breeding demands than they do now, or will bring as feeders. As long as the feeder can afford to buy this class of cattle and make his feeding venture profitable, or more profitable than by using other kinds of cattle, he will keep right on buying and feeding these choice heifers, calves and yearlings. There may be a little sentiment in this business with some people, but there are so few of this kind of persons in the beef-making industry that they are lost sight of in the scramble for gain of the slimsy dollar.

### PROPERLY BALANCED RATIONS

Report of Results of Tests Made by Illinois Station—Digestible Nutrients Saved.

(By H. R. FLINT, Minnesota Experiment Station.)

A balanced ration is "one in which each of the different food materials or nutrients is present in just the right proportion and amount to meet the needs of the animal," says Bulletin 159 of the Illinois agricultural experiment station. Tests indicated that cows fed balanced rations yielded a pound of butter fat for each 17 pounds of total nutrients consumed, while 21 pounds were consumed to a pound of butter fat when an unbalanced ration was fed. The use of the balanced ration thus saved four pounds of digestible nutrients for each pound of butter fat produced, or a pound and a quarter of butter fat was produced by the same number of pounds of digestible nutrients in balanced rations as was required for a pound of butter fat when the unbalanced ration was fed. Not only was the butter fat more economically produced, but the cows given a balanced ration finished the test with better appetites and in much better flesh and general physical condition than the others. It is not specially difficult to gain the profit resulting from the balanced ration.

### Supplemental Cow Feed.

For green feed to supplement the pasture during the latter part of summer and early fall, one acre for 15 head of cows should be planted. Have one large field, and drill the corn the long way of field. Be sure to have the ground finely pulverized and rolled; the field can then be quickly planted and early cultivation given. Corn is the best crop to grow for green feed for the silo, or to cure for winter feed.

### Building a Silo.

It is not economical to build one for less than eight or ten cows. Those expecting to build should correspond with the college of agriculture of their state to secure plans, bills of the materials required and any other information that they may desire.

### Produces Creamy Butter.

Churning at too high a temperature or churning too long will produce a greasy butter in which the grain is injured.

### Increases Capacity of Farm.

The capacity of the farm may be increased by building up the silo so as to make each acre yield more.

### Cleaning Dairy Utensils.

After the dairy utensils have been cleaned, invert them in the pure air and where the sun will strike them.

## LIVE STOCK



### ADVANTAGE OF THE ANGORA

Goat Is Much Hardier Than Sheep, Not So Liable to Disease and Eats Greater Variety of Feed.

In the mountainous regions of Asiatic Turkey is the ancient city of Angora, celebrated for the long-haired goats bred in that vicinity. Here Angoras, the most valuable of all breeds of goats, reaches its perfection. The fineness of its hair and the remarkable fact that many other animals in that region possess long, silky hair has been described by some authorities to some peculiarity in the atmosphere, the altitude or soil.

At the present time there are in the United States between 500,000 and 600,000 angoras of pure blood or high strain, and yet the domestic product of mohair does not equal the home demand by a large amount. Many dollars' worth of mohair is imported annually into the United States, and still in Texas alone there is sufficient mountain land to raise not only all the mohair now imported, but enough to export several million dollars' worth annually, says Farm and Ranch.

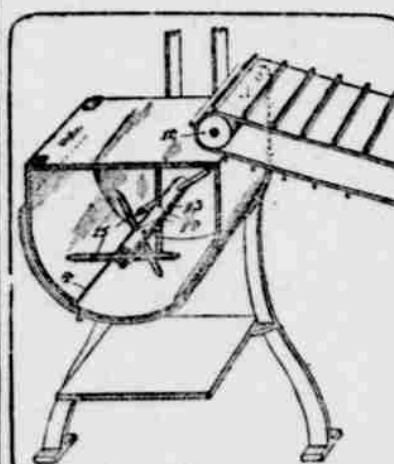
There are four profits to the Angora—the mohair, the increase, the fertilizer and the land they free from brush and weeds. There is a wide difference between the shearing weight and the shearing value of goats. Some will shear as much as 15 pounds of mohair per year, but the average for the United States is about two and one-half pounds. Some mohair brings as much as \$5.50 per pound, but the average is about 35 cents per pound. Mohair ranging from 12 inches to 20 inches in length brings from \$3 to \$5.50 per pound, and is used to make dolls' hair and wigs.

Mohair under 12 inches in length is sold according to fineness and lustre, and ranges from 35 to 55 cents per pound. The average shearing value of the American Angora is about \$1 per head, but there is more money in an Angora shearing \$1 per head than in a sheep shearing \$1.50 per head, because the goat is longer lived, is much harder, is not liable to disease; the goat eats a greater variety of feed, will come to the sheds at night, and has many advantages over the sheep.

### MACHINE FOR MIXING FEEDS

Effective Device Invented by Canadian in Form of Semi-Cylindrical Case—Cover Is Removable.

An effective feed mixer has been devised by Robert H. Driscoll of Aylmer, Quebec, Canada. The inventor provides a hopper in the form of a semi-cylindrical casing having a removable cover and an outlet through the bottom opposite the open top and closed by a sliding door. A shaft is journaled in the ends of the casing, which may be driven by a crank or belt. Through this shaft are fastened rods pointed at the ends. These rods form stirrers to catch the ingredients in different places and thoroughly mix



Cross Section View of Mixer.

them. An endless feed carrier is journaled to one side of the feed-mixer for the rapid transportation of feed ingredients to the mixer.

### Good Ration for Sows.

A good ration for brood sows is corn or maize, 50 per cent., and good alfalfa hay, 20 per cent., by weight. Sometimes sows will eat enough alfalfa hay if it is placed in racks in the pens. If they will not eat enough in this way, it is a good plan to grind it finely and feed it with cornmeal in the form of a thick slop. The mangels or sugar beets had better not be made a part of the regular ration, but fed as a conditioner; for such purposes they are excellent. The amount does not make so much difference. If you have plenty of them, throw over what the sows will clean up readily after they have had other feed. It will not be necessary to cut the beets or mangels.

### Difference in Yield.

One person will get less milk from a herd than another in the same time. There's a reason. It may be in the careless way of milking or in the rough manner of doing it that causes the cows to dry up.

## Horticultural Points



### LADYBUGS TO DESTROY APHIS

Capture of Bugs in California Is Interesting Industry—Gathered and Sent to Insectory.

(By MRS. A. JOSEPH, California.)  
The capturing of ladybugs to kill aphids is a very interesting industry. In this state, during the early winter months, the miners are always on the lookout for the ladybugs, and they, in turn, notify the State Entomologist, and he has them gathered and sent to the state insectory.

The bugs are gathered up, while they are off guard, and thrown into gunny-sacks. Then, they are transported by pack-train, over the snow, to the station, from which place, they are forwarded by train.

Humboldt Canyon is a favorite place for the ladybugs. When the canyon fills up with snow, in the winter, and there is no more food, they foregather in the higher places, where there are great bunches of moss. The warmth of their bodies is conserved, in this way. The little fellows on the outside worm their way inward, and when they get warm, crawl out again, for a breath of fresh air.

In this way, they spend the winter season. Like others, of their kind, the ladybugs sleep through the winter. Then the warmth of spring helps them to shake off the spell, and they are ready for work.

In the insectory, an artificial winter is made, with ice, and, by turning on the cold, it suspends animation in her ladyship.

She will live for months without food; some having been kept, in cold storage, for six months, without food.

The ladybugs are gathered in advance of the melon and cabbage season. The insectory will supply thousands upon orders from southern California, where the aphids are so common.

As no spray will reach the aphids, the lice, which prey on those vines, ladybugs are the only cure.

### FIRE BLIGHT OF APPLE TREE

Disease Is Caused by Bacterium and Is Very Contagious—But One Method of Eradication.

(By E. C. STACKMAN, Assistant Plant Pathologist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.)

There is a great deal of twig and branch blight of apple trees this year, indicated by the browning of leaves and blackening of twigs. Not only the smaller branches are affected, but also large limbs, and, in some cases, even the trunk.

The disease is caused by a bacterium, and is very contagious. Usually the microbe is carried by insects to the flowers, where it multiplies rapidly, and the blossom is blackened and killed, or it may extend along under the bark, killing the twig and often extending to the branches above. For this reason, in orchards where the disease has gained a foothold, nothing should be done to encourage rapid growth. The germs sometimes live through winter in holdover cankers and are the source of new infection.

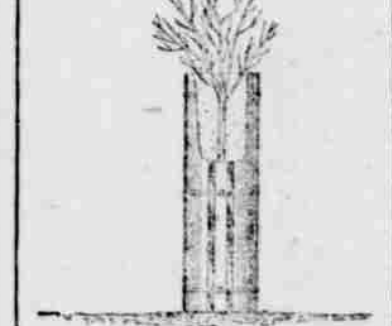
There is but one method of eradicating the blight from an orchard, that is, cut it out, preferably in late summer or fall. The branches should always be cut some distance back from the diseased parts, and after each limb is cut the pruning knife should be disinfected by dipping into a solution of corrosive sublimate in the proportion of one part of the poison to one thousand parts of water.

### PROTECTION FOR THE TREES

Arizona Man Designs Covering, Extending Around Trunk at All Sides to the Crown.

In describing a tree protector, invented by C. I. Helm of Phoenix, Ariz., the Scientific American says:

It is the design of this invention to



Tree Protector.

provide a protector by which the tree can be thoroughly protected, the protector being adapted to extend from the ground to the branches of the tree, and to hold a cylindrical body of earth extending around the tree trunk at all sides to the crown and among the branches, as shown in the accompanying illustration.

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